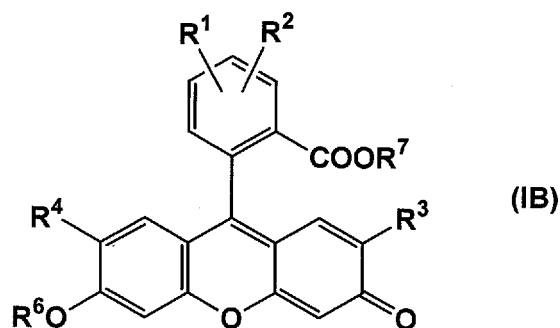
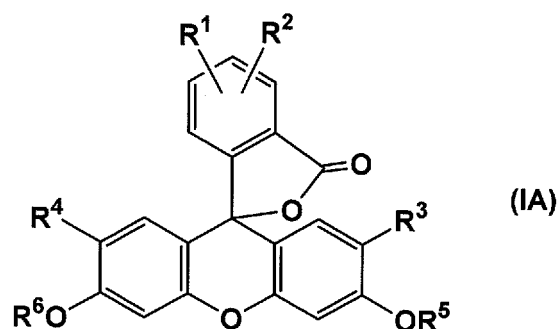


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

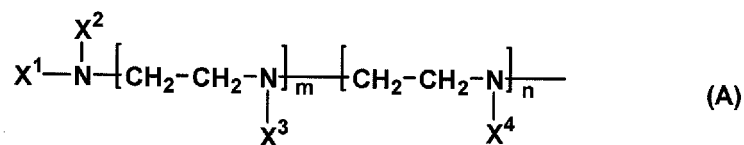
The claims in this listing will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Original): A compound represented by the following general formula (IA) or (IB) or a salt thereof:



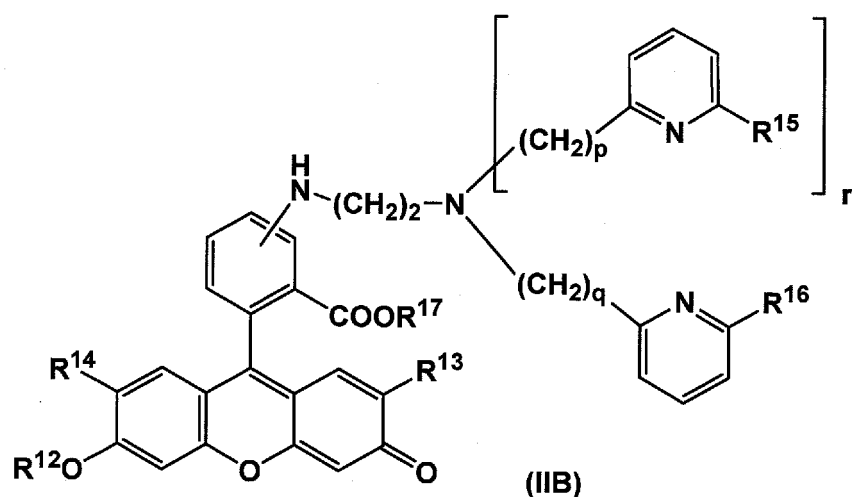
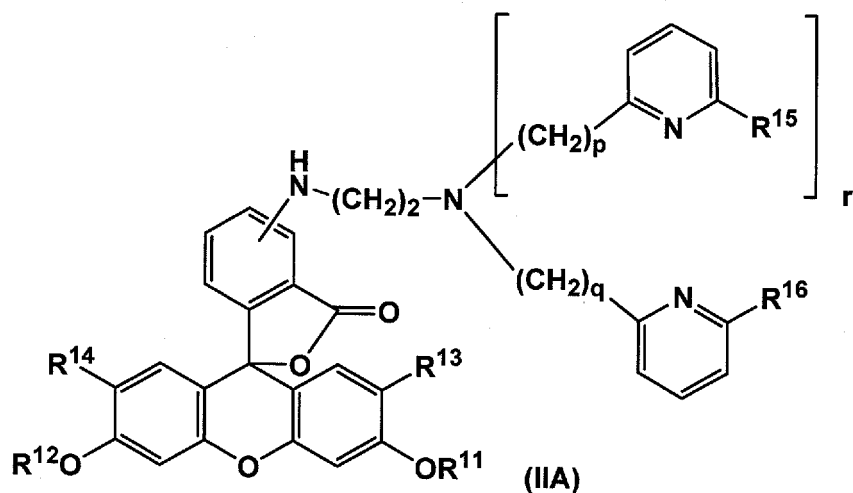
wherein R¹ and R² independently represent a hydrogen atom or a group represented by the following formula (A):



wherein X¹, X², X³, and X⁴ independently represent a hydrogen atom, a 2-pyridylmethyl group, a 2-pyridylethyl group, a 2-methyl-6-pyridylmethyl group, or a 2-methyl-6-pyridylethyl group, provided that at least one among the groups selected from the group consisting of X¹, X², X³, and X⁴ represents a group selected from the group consisting of a 2-pyridylethyl group, a 2-methyl-6-pyridylmethyl group, and a 2-methyl-6-pyridylethyl group, and m and n independently represent

0 or 1, provided that m and n do not simultaneously represent 0; provided that R^1 and R^2 do not simultaneously represent hydrogen atoms; R^3 and R^4 independently represent a hydrogen atom or a halogen atom; R^5 and R^6 independently represent a hydrogen atom, an alkylcarbonyl group, or an alkylcarbonyloxymethyl group; and R^7 represents a hydrogen atom or an alkyl group.

2. (Currently Amended) A compound represented by the following general formula (IIA) or (IIB) or a salt thereof:



wherein R^{11} and R^{12} independently represent a hydrogen atom, an alkylcarbonyl group, or an alkylcarbonyloxymethyl group; R^{13} and R^{14} independently represent a hydrogen atom or a halogen atom; R^{15} and R^{16} independently represent a hydrogen atom or a methyl group; R^{17}

represents a hydrogen atom or an alkyl group; p and q independently represent 1 or 2; and r represents 0 or 1, provided that when r is 1, it is excluded that R¹⁵ and R¹⁶ are simultaneously hydrogen atoms, and p and q are simultaneously 1, and when r is 0, q is 2, and the 2-pyridylalkyl group on the nitrogen is replaced by a hydrogen atom.

3. (Original) The compound according to claim 2 or a salt thereof, wherein R¹³ and R¹⁴ are hydrogen atoms.

4. (Previously Presented) The compound according to claim 2 or a salt thereof, wherein R¹⁷ is a hydrogen atom.

5. (Original) A fluorescent probe for zinc which comprises a compound represented by the general formula (IA) or (IB) according to claim 1 or a salt thereof.

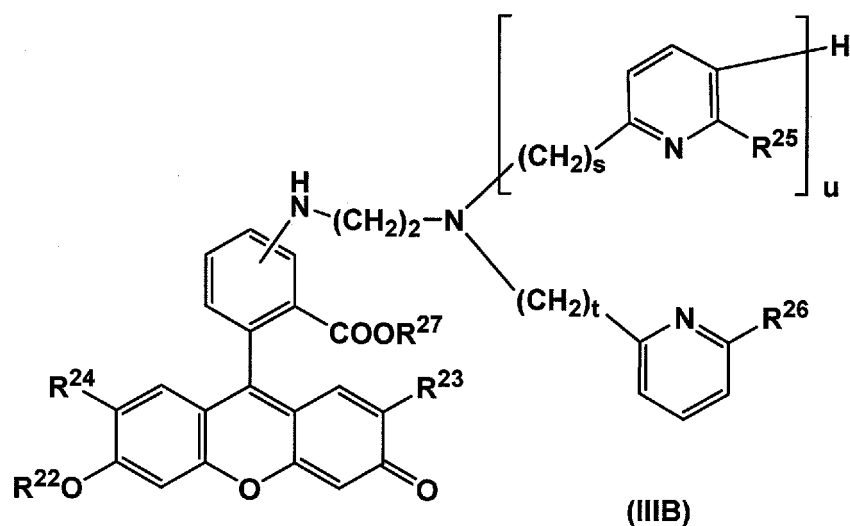
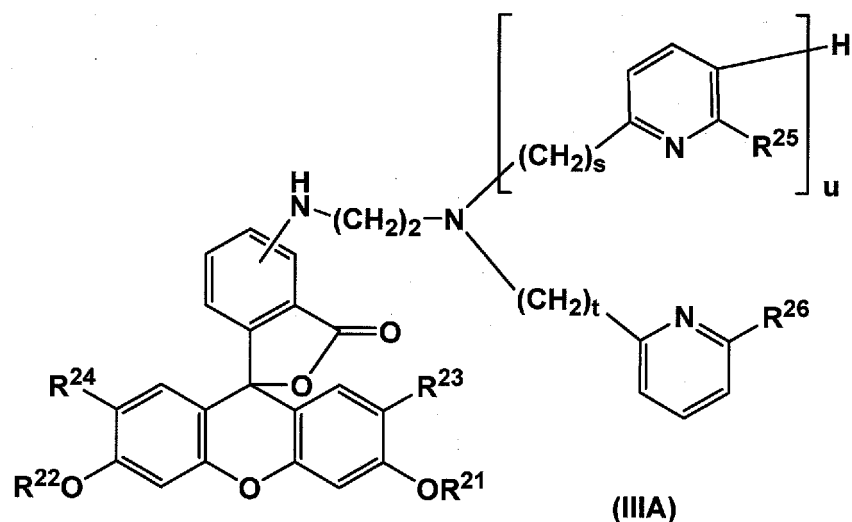
6. (Original) A zinc complex which is formed by a compound represented by the general formula (IA) or (IB) according to claim 1 or a salt thereof together with a zinc ion.

7. (Currently Amended) A method for measuring zinc ions which comprises the following steps of:

(a) reacting a compound represented by the general formula (IA) or (IB) according to claim 1 or a salt thereof with zinc ions; and

(b) measuring fluorescence intensity of the zinc complex produced in the above step (a) reacting the compound with zinc ions.

8. (Currently Amended) A method for measuring zinc ions which comprises ~~the step of~~ measuring zinc ions by using two or more compounds or salts thereof selected from the group consisting of the following (1) to (14) in the following general formula (IIIA) or (IIIB):



wherein R^{21} and R^{22} independently represent a hydrogen atom, an alkylcarbonyl group, or an alkylcarbonyloxymethyl group; R^{23} and R^{24} independently represent a hydrogen atom or a halogen atom; R^{25} and R^{26} independently represent a hydrogen atom or a methyl group; R^{27} represents a hydrogen atom or an alkyl group; s and t independently represent 1 or 2, and u represents 0 or 1,

(1) the compound wherein s and t are 1, u is 1, and R^{25} and R^{26} are hydrogen atoms, or a salt thereof

(2) the compound wherein s and t are 1, u is 1, R^{25} is a hydrogen atom, and R^{26} is a methyl group, or a salt thereof

(3) the compound wherein s and t are 1, u is 1, and R^{25} and R^{26} are methyl groups, or a salt thereof

(4) the compound wherein s is 1, t is 2, u is 1, and R^{25} and R^{26} are hydrogen atoms, or a salt thereof

(5) the compound wherein s is 1, t is 2, u is 1, R^{25} is a hydrogen atom, and R^{26} is a methyl group, or a salt thereof

(6) the compound wherein s is 1, t is 2, u is 1, R^{25} is a methyl group, and R^{26} is a hydrogen atom, or a salt thereof

(7) the compound wherein s is 1, t is 2, u is 1, and R^{25} and R^{26} are methyl groups, or a salt thereof

(8) the compound wherein s and t are 2, u is 1, and R^{25} and R^{26} are hydrogen atoms, or a salt thereof

(9) the compound wherein s and t are 2, u is 1, R^{25} is a hydrogen atom, and R^{26} is a methyl group, or a salt thereof

(10) the compound wherein s and t are 2, u is 1, and R^{25} and R^{26} are methyl groups, or a salt thereof

(11) the compound wherein t is 1, u is 0, and R^{26} is a hydrogen atom, or a salt thereof

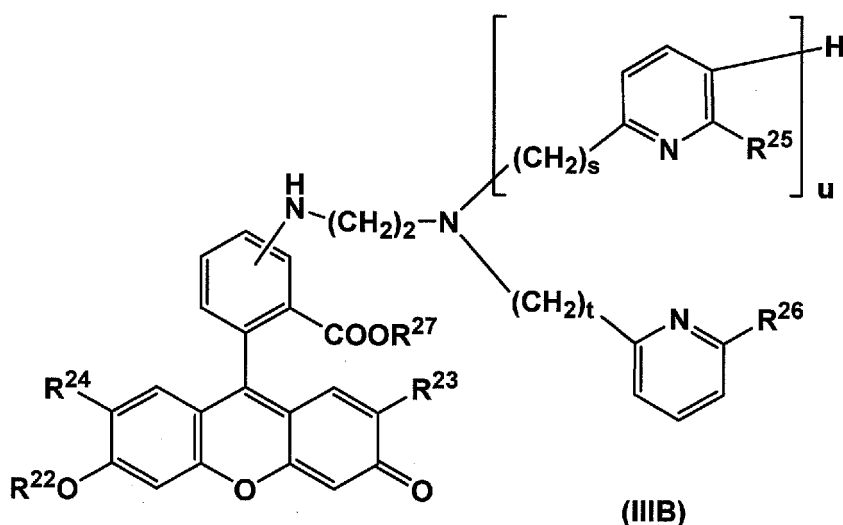
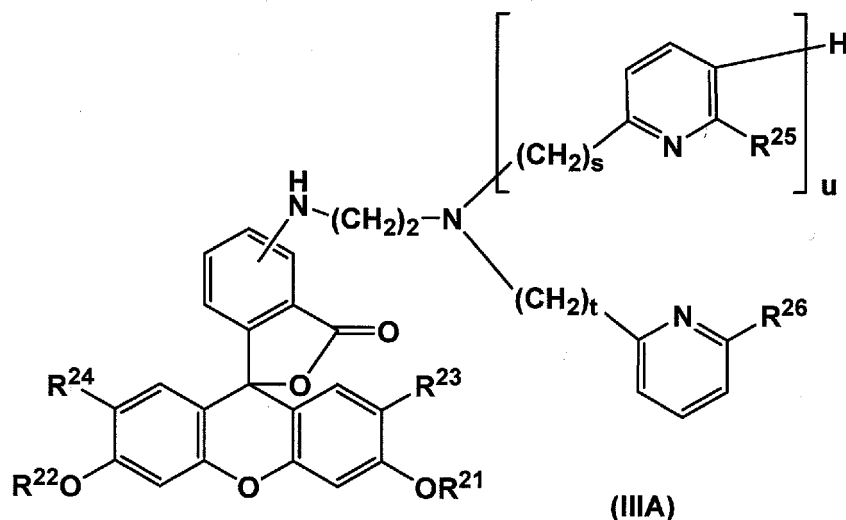
(12) the compound wherein t is 1, u is 0, and R^{26} is a methyl group, or a salt thereof

(13) the compound wherein t is 2, u is 0, and R^{26} is a hydrogen atom, or a salt thereof

(14) the compound wherein t is 2, u is 0, and R^{26} is a methyl group, or a salt thereof.

9. (Original) The method according to claim 8, wherein R^{23} , R^{24} , and R^{27} are hydrogen atoms.

10. (Currently Amended) A kit for measuring zinc ions which comprises two or more compounds or salts thereof selected from the group consisting of the compounds (1) to (14) or salts thereof ~~according to claim 8~~ selected from the group consisting of the following (1) to (14) in the following general formula (IIIA) or (IIIB):



wherein R^{21} and R^{22} independently represent a hydrogen atom, an alkylcarbonyl group, or an alkylcarbonyloxymethyl group; R^{23} and R^{24} independently represent a hydrogen atom or a halogen atom; R^{25} and R^{26} independently represent a hydrogen atom or a methyl group; R^{27} represents a hydrogen atom or an alkyl group; s and t independently represent 1 or 2, and u represents 0 or 1,

(1) the compound wherein s and t are 1, u is 1, and R^{25} and R^{26} are hydrogen atoms, or a salt thereof

(2) the compound wherein s and t are 1, u is 1, R^{25} is a hydrogen atom, and R^{26} is a methyl group, or a salt thereof

(3) the compound wherein s and t are 1, u is 1, and R^{25} and R^{26} are methyl groups, or a salt thereof

(4) the compound wherein s is 1, t is 2, u is 1, and R^{25} and R^{26} are hydrogen atoms, or a salt thereof

(5) the compound wherein s is 1, t is 2, u is 1, R^{25} is a hydrogen atom, and R^{26} is a methyl group, or a salt thereof

(6) the compound wherein s is 1, t is 2, u is 1, R^{25} is a methyl group, and R^{26} is a hydrogen atom, or a salt thereof

(7) the compound wherein s is 1, t is 2, u is 1, and R^{25} and R^{26} are methyl groups, or a salt thereof

(8) the compound wherein s and t are 2, u is 1, and R^{25} and R^{26} are hydrogen atoms, or a salt thereof

(9) the compound wherein s and t are 2, u is 1, R^{25} is a hydrogen atom, and R^{26} is a methyl group, or a salt thereof

(10) the compound wherein s and t are 2, u is 1, and R^{25} and R^{26} are methyl groups, or a salt thereof

(11) the compound wherein t is 1, u is 0, and R^{26} is a hydrogen atom, or a salt thereof

(12) the compound wherein t is 1, u is 0, and R^{26} is a methyl group, or a salt thereof

(13) the compound wherein t is 2, u is 0, and R^{26} is a hydrogen atom, or a salt thereof

(14) the compound wherein t is 2, u is 0, and R^{26} is a methyl group, or a salt thereof.

11. (Previously Presented) The compound according to claim 3 or a salt thereof, wherein R^{17} is a hydrogen atom.